

Summarization Pyramid

This strategy helps students look at different kinds of essential elements of the material to be summarized.

Teacher Preparation:

1. Select the passage to be summarized.
2. Make a copy of the pyramid (3-1-2) for each student.

Lesson Plan:

1. Have students read the passage.
2. Distribute the handout and have students work individually to fill in the blanks.
3. Have students share.

Adapted from a workshop conducted by Daniel R. Moirao for the Academically Gifted Department of the Wake County Public School System in November, 2006.

Summarization Pyramid

The diagram is a pyramid divided into ten horizontal sections, each containing a summarization task. The tasks progress from the most basic (Topic) at the top to the most comprehensive (What I learned about this topic) at the bottom.

Topic

Synonym for the topic

Antonym for the topic

_____ is to _____ as _____ is to _____

What interested me most about this topic

One idea of my own about this topic

Three important characteristics of this topic

One thing that is important to remember about this topic

A question I have about this topic

What I learned about this topic

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Benefits:

- Students look at different kinds of essential elements of the material to be summarized

Applications in the Classroom	Meeting the Diverse Needs of Students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summarization - Focus on a variety of essential elements - Formative assessment - Checking for understanding - Interaction with text - Review - Summarize a topic rather than a text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning preferences - Learning styles - Flexible grouping - Tiered activity assigning different parts of the pyramid to different groups - Complexity and challenge using higher-order thinking skills - Learning center activity for enrichment - Opportunity for student self assessment - Varied texts and materials
Content-Area Examples Collected from Workshop Participants	
<p>English:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Used to introduce unit and define major concepts (for example, used to define families, a theme to be developed in the novel being introduced) - Brainstorm topics as a strategy for the writing test - Use to summarize a character 	<p>Math:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6th-grade math intervention teacher used to review fractions (add, subtract, multiply, divide) <p>Social Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Divided the class into 3 groups. Each group had a different topic.